



# The Old Ironsides Report



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## Remains of two people found in graves near Baghdad

**Story and photo by Sgt. Mark Rickert  
372<sup>nd</sup> MPAD**

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- As a warm wind blows over the desolate dirt fields of a former Republican Guard military compound, and the sun chars the mountains of rubble which were once buildings used by the former regime in Iraq, U.S. soldiers move along a quiet roadside with shovels resting over their shoulders.

A few Iraqis have joined the soldiers, and as they move toward a dirt mound near the road, the Iraqis anxiously point at it. The soldiers don't understand what the Iraqis are saying, but they get the point. They put down their equipment and get to work.

Special agents with the 323rd Military Police Detachment, Criminal Investigation Command (CID), unearthed the skeletal remains of two people during a mass graves exploitation detail in a decimated Republican Guard military compound in the Radwani neighborhood district, which is south of Baghdad.

"We searched three locations for possible grave sites," said Special Agent Gerald A. Luedecking, A team leader for the 323rd Military Police Detachment (CID). "In one site, we found bone fragments of two people and exploited the hole as best as we could."

According to Special Agent Scott Russ, forensic science officer for the 10th Military Police Detachment (CID), the mission of CID in this case is to exploit the grave sites and document any signs of atrocities or war crimes.

Evidence such as blindfolds, bound hands and gunshot wounds are documented, as well as the grid coordinates of the location. The CID agents then send the documentation to the proper authorities.

Luedecking says the U.S. military is the lead agency for collecting evidence in the Baghdad area for any possible future prosecutions of war atrocities or war crimes. For this reason, CID exploits the grave sites and collects all possible information.

"Our definition of a mass grave is three or more bodies," said Luedecking. "We found the skeletal remains of only two people here today. The evidence leads us to believe that one person was shot in the head. Whether this was a suicide, assassination or an act of war is hard to say."

Once the remains are unearthed, the CID agents take photographs of the skeletal fragments, and the forensic science officer assesses the evidence for documentation. Afterward, the bones are returned to the grave and are once again buried.

"We are a reporting agency," said Russ. "We don't take the remains. We find the truth to the best of our ability and present the facts."

It is too early for a solid conclusion, and CID can only pass along the information to the proper authorities. Even though the answers may never come into the light, perhaps one day they will.



Special Agent Gerald A. Luedecking, a team leader for the 323rd Military Police Detachment (CID), searches for remains suspected to be Iraqi citizens assassinated by the former regime. The remains of two bodies were unearthed by a U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command mass graves exploitation detail south of Baghdad.

### **A Smart Tip From 1AD Safety**

#### ***When Planning Gatherings (i.e. parties, clubs)***

**Ensure the area is safe and secure by:**

- Ensuring the area is structurally sound
- Ensuring the electrical system capacity will meet your needs
- Ensuring sufficient exits are available in case of emergency
- Using the risk management process to remove hazards

## NEWS

### Isabel Cleanup on East Coast to Take Days

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) - Isabel's flight across the Mid-Atlantic was swift, but its devastation will take time to overcome: Nearly 2 million homes and businesses were still without power Sunday, debris clogged streets, and flooding left drinking water contaminated. Long lines were forming Sunday morning in places where there was news of ice or water or hot showers available. Families began emptying refrigerators and freezers filled with spoiled food, and many faced the prospect of several days without a home-cooked meal.

### U.S. Detains Guantanamo Islamic Chaplain

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) - U.S. authorities have detained a Muslim chaplain who counseled suspected terrorists at the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo Bay, saying he was carrying classified documents when he arrived back in the United States. News reports said Army Capt. Yousef Yee had drawings of the prison and lists of detainees, but that could not immediately be confirmed. Yee has not been charged.

### Iraq to Open Most of Economy to Investors

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) - Iraq's leadership council announced Sunday it will open all sectors of its economy except oil to private investment, hoping to rebuild an economy mismanaged under Saddam Hussein's rule and battered by international sanctions and war. The wide-ranging reforms, undoing years of rigid control of the economy imposed by Saddam's one-party rule, will permit the sell-off of Iraq's numerous state-owned companies to foreigners and introduce new taxes.

### Gates Donates \$168M for Malaria Research

MANHICA, Mozambique (AP) - Touring a malaria clinic where they sat on reed mats while coddling babies, Bill and Melinda Gates announced a \$168 million grant Sunday to accelerate research into malaria, a disease that kills over a million people each year, most of them young African children. The grant, by the world's richest man and his wife, is the largest ever single donation towards fighting the mosquito-borne disease. Malaria is making a deadly comeback in Africa, the world's poorest continent, as strains of the disease become increasingly resistant to treatment.

## Chaplain's Thought for the Day: *He Quiets the Storms*

There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God.  
—Psalm 46:4

In the fall of 2001, a thunderous storm blew across Lake Michigan for 36 hours straight. Sustained winds of 60 miles per hour, with gusts much stronger, whipped up the highest waves in 15 years. One frothing roller after another, some up to 18 feet high, crashed over the breakwaters and pounded the shore with great fury. The writer of Psalm 46 must have experienced a sustained spiritual and emotional crisis like the incessant pounding of a giant storm, for he wrote of troubled waters and roaring seas. He also mentioned the quaking of the mountains (vv.2-3). That may describe how life in this world feels to you right now. If so, continue on to verse 4, which tells of a quiet river that delights and refreshes the people of God. Its cool, peaceful waters flow continually as a never-ending source of joy and blessing. Let the Lord quiet the storms in your heart. For He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" (v.10).

**God does not shield us from life's storms; He shelters us in life's storms.**

## SPORTS

### Roddick Keeps U.S. in Davis Cup Elite

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia (AP) - Andy Roddick kept the United States in the Davis Cup's top tier, defeating Karol Beck 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 Sunday to win the playoff against Slovakia. Roddick, the U.S. Open champion, atoned for his opening-day singles loss and gave the Americans an unbeatable 3-1 lead in the best-of-five series. A loss to Slovakia would have left the United States outside the 16-team World Group and in the Davis Cup's second level for the first time in 15 years.

## Oddly Enough...

### Britain Leads Europe in Binge Drinking

LONDON (Reuters) - Britons are the worst binge drinkers in Europe and women are catching up with men in the heavy drinking stakes, the government said Friday, urging a "more civilized" late-night culture. A report by Downing Street's strategy unit found that while Britons drink less than most of their continental neighbors, they drink more intensively. "In the UK, binge drinking accounts for 40 percent of all drinking occasions by men and 22 percent by women," the unit said in a report designed to help form government policy on alcohol abuse. That put Britain in the lead in the binge stakes, ahead of Sweden and Denmark, and way ahead of Germany, Italy and France, where binge drinking accounted for less than 15 percent of all consumption. The strategy unit acknowledged binge drinking was difficult to define but said that for the purposes of its report it meant drinking more than twice the government's daily guidelines. Those guidelines are three to four units of alcohol a day for men and two to three units for women. A unit is defined as half a pint of medium strength beer, a small glass of wine or a measure of spirits. The report also warned that while most Europeans are drinking less than they used to, Britons are drinking more. "If present trends continue, the UK would rise to near the top of the consumption league within the next 10 years," it said, adding that British children under 16 are drinking twice as much as they did 10 years ago. Women are also drinking more. "The number of women drinking above recommended guidelines has risen by over half in the last 15 years," it said. One in four women exceeds the government's guidelines, compared with just one in 10 in 1988. The British alcoholic drinks industry is worth \$48 billion a year, seven billion of which finds its way to the Treasury. The BBC said the study showed that Britain loses 17 million working days per year to hangovers and drink-related illness, faces 1.2 million incidents of alcohol-related violence a year, that up to 1.3 million of its children are affected by parents with drinking problems and that alcohol-related problems are responsible for 22,000 premature deaths each year.

## On This Day In History: *September 22<sup>nd</sup> 1776*

In New York City, Nathan Hale, a Connecticut schoolteacher and captain in the Continental Army, is executed by the British for spying. A graduate of Yale University, Hale joined a Connecticut regiment in 1775 and served in the successful siege of British-occupied Boston. In the summer of 1776, he crossed behind British lines on Long Island in civilian clothes to spy on the British. While returning with the intelligence information, British soldiers captured Hale near the American lines and charged him with espionage. Taken to New York, he was hanged without trial the next day. Before being executed, legend holds that Hale said, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country." There is no historical record to prove that Hale actually made this statement, but if he did he may have been inspired by the lines in English author Joseph Addison's 1713 play Cato: "What a pity it is/That we can die but once to serve our country."

Source: historychannel.com

# Sunday NFL

Final	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	T	
Baltimore	7	3	14	0	24	▶
San Diego	3	0	0	7	10	

Final	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	T	
Jacksonville	0	3	0	10	13	
Indianapolis	0	0	17	6	23	▶

Final	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	T	
Minnesota	0	16	7	0	23	▶
Detroit	10	0	3	0	13	

Final	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	T	
Tampa Bay	3	14	14	0	31	▶
Atlanta	0	3	7	0	10	

Final	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	T	
NY Jets	3	3	3	7	16	
New England	3	3	10	7	23	▶

Final	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	T	
NY Giants	7	14	0	0	3	24	▶
Washington	3	0	7	11	0	21	

Final	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	T	
Cleveland	0	0	0	13	13	▶
San Francisco	0	6	3	3	12	

Final	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	T	
Green Bay	0	10	0	3	13	
Arizona	7	3	3	7	20	▶

Final	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	T	
St. Louis	7	10	6	0	23	
Seattle	7	3	0	14	24	▶

Final	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	T	
Kansas City	7	7	14	14	42	▶
Houston	0	7	0	7	14	

Final	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	T	
Pittsburgh	0	7	7	3	17	▶
Cincinnati	0	0	3	7	10	

Final	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	T	
New Orleans	2	3	0	7	12	
Tennessee	10	3	7	7	27	▶

## *Greetings From...* Hollywood, Florida

Recently received in the mail was this postcard from Deborah Maronelli:

Dear Troops,

Thank you for protecting our country! Your courage and bravery and strength are so admired by many of us civilians! I wish I would have enlisted to serve my country. I am a single mother of two, and try to instill morals and values in them. By seeing you serve and protect the USA, my 4 year old wants to be in the Army. My 7 year old still says prayers for those lost in 9/11/01. They are amazing. I feel all of you are! There are no words to express our gratitude and our sympathy and prayers for those who won't make it home. Freedom is worth a lot and thank you all for preserving it for the USA. We love you, and admire you and wish you all safe returns home. You will never be forgotten.

Deborah, Tyler, and Trevor Maronelli

Pembroke Pines, FL